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Beast in show: why animals rule the art world

Dogs, cats, cocks and bulls are the focus of a new creative interest. What's the roar appeal?

“Different animals can really shift the meaning of the work: from the domestic to the wild animal, they are captivating in such different ways.”



Agneau, 2021, by Adrian Geller © Isabelle Arthuis, courtesy of the artist and Super Dakota, Brussels

This is something the Swiss-born, Paris-based artist [Adrian Geller](#) agrees with: his mysterious, fantastical paintings include figures riding geese, or hugging lambs. “I think animals are our entryway into the imagination,” he says. “I generally paint them quite differently to how they would look in a photo. They become hybrids and chimaeras so easily... The more exotic and bizarre, the better.”

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